

incubating said test substance with a mixture, wherein said mixture comprises:

- a) the protein,
- b) at least one marker substrate, and
- c) at least one substrate; and

comparing the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance with the corresponding conversion in control mixtures A and B,

wherein the control mixture A comprises the protein and the marker substrate; and the control mixture B comprises the protein, the substrate and the marker substrate

wherein the test substance is an inhibitor or ligand of the protein if the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance is between the values obtained with control mixtures A and B.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protein is collagenase, the substrate is collagen, and the marker substrate is (7-methoxycoumarin-4-yl)acetyl-Pro-Leu-Gly-Leu-(3-[2,4-dinitrophenyl]-L-2,3-diaminopropionyl)-Ala-Arg-NH₂.

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